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Representative Ted Washburn
Montana Legislature, Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Washburn:

We have not met and I am writing to comment on your HB 33 and also sending you a paper on grizzly bear management which I wrote in 2012. I am a Montana native, started work for MT FG in 1963 and have been a research assistant, bighorn researcher, wildlife management and grizzly bear research biologist, cattle rancher, 20 year general outfitter, and a gift products manufacturer. I grew up on sheep ranches in SE MT and am currently retired although I do a lot of writing and speaking on wildlife issues.

I have concerns about item c line 16 in HB 33. If a grizzly or black bear breaks into a home, cabin, camp trailer, outbuilding or vehicle and gets a food reward it probably should be killed and not relocated. Transplant has a different meaning than relocation. Bears have excellent memory and once conditioned to food seldom forget the source. Check out the Geifer Creek Grizzly 1975-1977 on the Middle and North Forks of Flathead where he broke into at least 55 homes and cabins and FG could not kill him even though he had a radio collar part of the time. He was killed by a hunter in BC.

In 2010 I requested 15 years of conflict information on grizzly bears because I wanted to see how various FWP regions were handling the problems. I knew there were 263 conflicts in northern MT in 1998. FWP only gave me 10 years data, excluded 1998, and they changed the ID number for each bear so I would not be able to track individual bears long- term. The categories they used for wildlife conflicts on their website do not tell a knowledgeable bear person the details needed to understand each conflict. See WY grizzly management website and compare to Montana. The MT bears were classified as livestock conflict, human conflict, preventative measure, and incidental/non-target capture. For example a grizzly killing 20 calves or 50 sheep is a lot more serious than a bear killing a chicken or a turkey. We need to know the exact human conflict and also what they were trying to prevent. In 2012 they added the category orphaned to the site. Lauri Hannuska-Brown—FWP told me they could not provide full and accurate details on each conflict because people might get mistaken impressions about grizzly bears. I think truthfulness on details would be an excellent policy.

Bear specialists, wolf specialists and I believe one lion specialist at Kalispell and game wardens handle problem animals. Standardized detailed records should be kept and

an annual report written by FWP on each species by FWP region and made available to the public and the legislature. That history is important to improve state and regional programs and cut costs. Most wolves and mountain lions and many bears should not be relocated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allen Schallenberger". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping stroke.

Allen Schallenberger

NEED FOR BETTER PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF GRIZZLY BEAR NUMBERS, DISTRIBUTION AND CONFLICTS IN MONTANA

Allen Schallenger

February, 2012

Grizzly bears were listed as threatened species in Montana in 1975 under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Grizzly numbers have increased to over 1,600 in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Distribution has increased greatly since 1975 resulting in increased conflicts with people, livestock, property and increasing numbers of grizzlies have been killed in self defense. More people are being mauled by grizzlies and deaths of people have occurred due to grizzly injuries. Unfortunately they are still listed throughout the three states as threatened.

Executive Summary

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP) have two grizzly bear plans currently governing management of the bears in the state. They are the 2002-2012 plan for southern Montana and the 2006-2016 plan for western Montana. Both plans say grizzly bears can occupy and spread to areas which are biologically suitable and social acceptable. MTFWP has not defined those areas. Wyoming Game and Fish on the other hand has done that through an intensive public process and will limit distribution of grizzlies as soon as they are delisted. Montana plans currently allow grizzly bears in 24 counties and in four others to which they have spread since the plans were written.

Southern Montana grizzly bears from the Yellowstone area are considerably more aggressive and predacious than are the northern Montana bears. The main reason for this appears to be the high animal matter consumed by the Yellowstone bears compared to the plant matter consumed by northern Montana bears. Many more people have been mauled in the Yellowstone area and many more grizzlies have been killed in defense compared to northern Montana.

There is no need for grizzly bears to walk their genes to the isolated Yellowstone area.

A 2010 survey showed \$6,294.00 being spent per grizzly bear in the lower 48 states by government agencies.

Information is provided on grizzly attacks on humans, the injuries and the high costs associated with those attacks.

Montana is lacking accurate and timely details on grizzly bear conflicts for the public compared to the excellent weekly and yearly reports provided in Wyoming.

Details are provided on grizzly bear predation on livestock and the increasing problem in Montana. Also the problems of grizzlies killing elk and moose are mentioned.

Human population of the counties occupied by grizzly bears is given and also the various categories of land ownership including private acres. Forcing grizzly bears onto private property is a likely taking of the property. Stresses and costs of living with grizzly bears are mentioned. Government bureaucrats appear to be giving grizzly bears priority over humans in Montana. The state of Montana pays nothing for the problems caused by grizzly bears.

Ten recommendations for improving grizzly management in Montana are listed and the report is backed by 42 literature citations

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dept. Grizzly Bear Plans

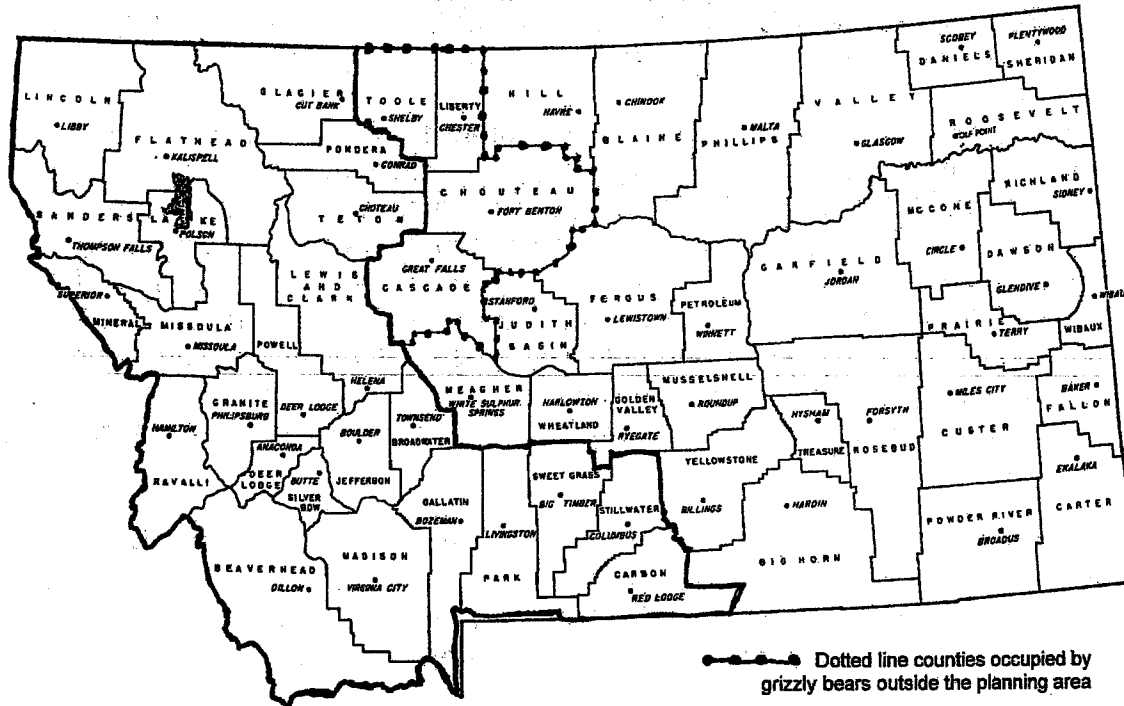
Management of grizzly bears in Montana is governed by two management plans: Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwestern Montana 2002-2012, October 2002 115 pp. (1) and Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana 2006-2016, December 2006, 163 pp (2) The 2002 plan will probably be rewritten in 2012 and merged with the 2006 plan.

Grizzly bear possible distribution is defined for 24 counties in southern and western Montana beginning on the east side of the Pryor Mountains in Carbon County and running north and west along county lines to the eastern border of Glacier County and the Canadian border and all land west of there to Idaho. See Fig 1. for a map of the counties involved. The plans say grizzlies may even occur outside those boundaries during the life span of the plans, and they have been found in four additional counties-Toole, Liberty, Chouteau and Cascade that were not mentioned in the plans. Basically Montana FWP (MTFWP) has said the grizzlies can be everywhere except in urban areas and FWP will manage them. The grizzly recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Missoula has defined an urban area as a place with 129 or more resident people per square mile.

Both of the plans were written by a biologist with most of his career in an endangered species office in Bozeman. He had little or no field time with grizzly bears. Both plans say that grizzly bears can occupy and spread to areas which are biologically suitable and socially acceptable. Montana has done very little to define those two terms and boundaries of those areas on the ground or to indicate what number of grizzly bears will constitute maximum numbers. Instead they use subtle comments such as people should expect to find grizzly bears everywhere in southern and western Montana and MTFWP will educate people on how to live with them. They don't tell people the truth or give accurate details about conflicts that are occurring. Nor do they provide an annual and comprehensive report on bear conflicts. They do not detail yearly increases in grizzly bear distribution and numbers. The costs which might be incurred by Montana residents and others when grizzly bears move into socially unacceptable areas are not calculated. For example the grizzly bears in drier areas of Montana will not remain in isolated mountain ranges but soon be on the lowland creeks and rivers where there is better bear food. That is also where there are towns, subdivisions, ranch headquarters

and wintering livestock areas, hundreds of thousands of people and livestock and many activities in Montana.

**Fig. 1 BOUNDARY OF GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT DESIGNATED
BY MONTANA FWP DEPT. 2002 AND 2006 GRIZZLY PLANS
WITH EXTREMELY LIMITED COMMENT FROM MONTANA PEOPLE**



The handy-dandy bear spray probably won't be sufficient to get the job done as these bears move into high conflict areas. MTFWP doesn't tell people how they are addicted to federal bear funds, how much they are spending per grizzly bear and the power addiction of the ESA. Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. (WYGF) is open about their expenditures on grizzly bears. MTFWP keeps their mouths tightly closed on the annual amount and source of their grizzly funding and expenditures.

Lack of MT Resident Participation in Grizzly Bear Plans

When the draft 2002 plan was released 13 public meetings were held in southern Montana and were attended by a grand total of 172 people who made 32 public comments. A total of 7,300 written comments were received and only 846 of those were from Montana. They also received 3 petitions with 100 signatures and some of those were from kindergarten classes and very difficult to discern how many people signed. MTFWP state that comments were used to improve the final plan. However there was no breakdown of comments to resident and non-resident categories, organizations and agencies nor was there a percentage tally of comments or the numbers of people commenting on each issue. I filed a freedom of information act request in 2004 to get a copy of the comments but that was denied by then director Jeff Hagener of MT FWP.

On the Western Montana Grizzly Bear Plan a series of 11 public meetings were held on the draft plan in September of 2006. A total of 168 people attended the meetings and 34 people commented. Written comments were received from 114 people of whom 103 were Montana residents. Again there was no mathematic breakdown of the relatively few comments. People apparently had little desire or time to read the small print in the draft 163 page plan. We are experiencing the results of poor planning and lack of input from citizens who are being harmed or may be harmed in the future.

WY Grizzly Bear Distribution a Comprehensive Public Process

WYGF defined the desired distribution of grizzly bears through an intensive, comprehensive and public process. The Executive summary from the Special Report Draft Grizzly Bear Occupancy Management Proposal Following Delisting as a Threatened Species April 2005 WYGF 56 pp.(3) describes what was done. They held a special meeting with stakeholders. Every stakeholder organization, legislator, and county commissioner was invited. They held three special meetings with county commissioners and they held 11 public meetings with the public at which 1,043 people signed in at the meetings. They got 17,542 written comments and 75,919 comment statements were analyzed.

WYGF did an excellent job of breaking down the written comments. Of the 17,542 total, 5,168(29.5 %) were from 98 Wyoming communities and 85 per cent from the counties occupied by grizzly bears. The remaining 12,374 (70.5%) came from all 50 states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and 38 foreign countries.

Comments in each category - resident, non-resident or organization or agency - were analyzed separately. The same sub categories were used for each group to obtain comparison data.

Of the resident comments 74.3% were on grizzly distribution and thousands said limit grizzly bears to wilderness areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park and they opposed expansion of grizzly bears to Wind River Range, Wyoming Range and Gros Ventre Range.

For non-residents distribution was 22.4% and thousands said allow grizzly bears to freely use all suitable remaining habitats in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Of the non-resident comments, 52.2% (thousands) were about the plan. Non-residents said there should be citizen teams in Wyoming communities to address human/grizzly conflicts. Non-residents spending little time in WY said the plan should not raise or eliminate human-caused mortality quotas. They wanted Wyoming citizens to work to reduce human/grizzly bear conflicts. Probably non-residents commenting may not have understood what it is like to live with numerous aggressive grizzly bears.

The plan had 42.4% of organization and agency comments from 41 members in this group. High numbers said that the plan should indicate the maximum number of grizzly bears that will be allowed and precisely how that number will be maintained.

Guidelines for Grizzly Bear Occupancy in WY

The WYGF came out with Wyoming Grizzly Bear Occupancy Guidelines on July 15, 2005. (4) The trophy game section compiled appropriate indicators of suitable grizzly habitat, including secure habitats, potential denning areas, current distribution, available grizzly bear food sources (whitebark pine) and potential core and corridor areas. Areas mapped in northwest Wyoming supporting these five indicators were considered to be biologically suitable habitat capable of supporting grizzly bears. Human uses including livestock grazing, timber harvest, oil and gas development, areas of high road densities and recreational activities/developed sites create potential increases for human/grizzly bear conflicts increasing the potential for grizzly bear mortalities. Areas supporting these human uses are considered socially unacceptable for grizzly bear occupancy. These areas were mapped and compared to the biologically suitable habitat base to determine those areas in northwest Wyoming most suited for grizzly bear occupancy. These guidelines will not be in effect until after delisting. Wyoming specifically said they don't want grizzly bears in isolated mountain ranges such as the Bighorns and Black Hills. MT FWP, United States Forest Service (USFS) and the USFWS Grizzly Coordinator have recently supported having grizzly bear expansion into the Pryor Mountains of Carbon County as reported in the Billings Gazette. (5) The Pryor Mountains are about 10 miles from the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming and 40 miles from Billings, MT our state's largest city. Forty miles is a brief jaunt for a large grizzly bear, and there are undoubtedly many potential conflicts for grizzly bears in that city and nearby areas.

Wyoming states secure grizzly bear habitat is essentially an index of road density, where areas greater than 500 meters from a motorized access route or reoccurring helicopter flight path occur and they are 10 acres or larger in size. Human/grizzly bear conflicts were defined as grizzly bear activity resulting in human injury, property damage, human food or garbage consumption, or livestock depredation. If a grizzly bear moves outside suitable habitat and causes a conflict, the WYGF will remove the offending bear.

By now those familiar with Montana grizzly bear management will have seen some distinct differences from the better management being carried out in Wyoming

Southern MT Grizzlies more Aggressive than Northern MT Grizzlies

We are somewhat fortunate in southern Montana as most of the previous expansion of grizzly bears from the Yellowstone National Park (YNP) area has been southward and eastward into Wyoming. In recent years as the habitat has filled with bears we are seeing more of the aggressive and predacious Yellowstone bears moving into Montana. There is strong evidence that these Yellowstone area bears which consume relatively high amounts of animal matter are causing more injuries and deaths for humans than are northern Montana bears. Adult males in the Yellowstone area eat about 80 per cent animal material and 85 per cent if livestock are available. Females and sub-adults eat about 40 per cent animal matter. That contrasts with northern Montana where about 95 per cent of the food is plant materials. Some animals are taken and that occurs more

often in drier habitats such as the Rocky Mountain Front or the Blackfoot area west of the divide.

In the Yellowstone area there have been roughly 90 people mauled and four people killed by grizzly bears in the last two decades. (6) Accurate figures are not yet available for 2011. Ninety or more grizzly bears have been shot in self defense since 1998 and most of those shooters were not mauled. Complete numbers are not available for 2011. These numbers are far higher than those for northern Montana although there have been human deaths and far fewer maulings there. Apparently at least 8 grizzlies were shot in self defense in northern Montana in 2011, and at least three of them were on the Rocky Mountain Front. (7) At the November 30, 2011 Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) meeting in Missoula, information was presented that showed 83 grizzly bear attacks were reported in 2011. (8) Again the data reflected the greater danger from the 600 Yellowstone area bears. In that area there were 64 charges by grizzlies and only 19 in the northern Montana area which has 1,000 grizzly bears. Approximately 20 per cent of the people charged were injured.

Another factor which must be considered with aggressive grizzly bears is the lack of hunting in the Yellowstone area for nearly four decades and since 1991 in northern Montana. Hunted animals are generally more wary of people. It appears that northern Montana grizzly bears are influenced positively by harassment techniques to remain away from roads in Glacier National Park (GNP). (9) That also seems to work in the outfitting and food storage regulations in northern Montana. (10) The grizzly bears are smart and can be taught to avoid camps and roads. That is not occurring very often with the more aggressive Yellowstone area bears. Instead of keeping grizzly bears away from roadsides in Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, park personnel try to manage the hundreds of grizzly bear jams on roads each year and try to keep the tourists from getting close to and feeding the grizzlies. Likewise the food storage regulations in southern Montana and Wyoming don't train bears to stay out of camps. They train people who can be fined \$5,000.00 and/or get six months in jail for having food in tents after sunset or for having an empty pop can in the back of a pickup truck. The heavy penalty also applies to people who are more than 100 feet from their vehicles and the windows are not completely rolled up on a hot day if food and beverages are present. Get the four pages of possible transgressions from the USDA Beaverhead/Deerlodge, Gallatin and Custer Forests and read them! (11) The Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest has indicated they may extend the poor regulations to the entire forest rather than just the Madison and Jefferson Ranger Districts as at present. (12)

Plans for Grizzly Bears to Walk Throughout MT

Many federal and MT state agency personnel seem to agree with environmental groups that we need many more grizzly bears and they should walk through all the land and from YNP to GNP and GNP to YNP, YNP to the Selway-Bitterroot, GNP to the Selway-Bitterroot, Glacier to Cabinet-Yaak, Cabinet Yaak to Selway-Bitterroot and of course north to the Yukon—Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) Wildlands Network etc. In the 2009 summer meeting at Nelson, B.C. the IGBC approved a 14 page plan for 2010-2014.

That plan used to be available on the website but has been taken off recently. If you can get a copy see page 11 of 14 page plan IGBC put out on their website in 2009 for Montana. It has the grizzlies crossing Montana as mentioned above. (13) Most people may not know that both the Idaho legislature in House Joint Memorial No. 2 in 1997 (14) and the Montana legislature in House Joint Resolution No. 4 in 1999 (15) went on record opposing grizzly bears in the Selway-Bitterroot. HJR 4 was quite detailed in stating the problems the grizzlies would cause. It also stated..."That if the United States government persists in its proposal to introduce grizzly bears into the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River-of-No-Return wilderness complex and succeeds in placing grizzly bears in those areas, the United States government be held financially liable for any damages to livestock and other domestic animals and to property, for loss of life, and for personal injury arising from the actions of grizzly bears and of United States government agents engaged in the grizzly bear recovery program, including economic losses suffered by individuals or communities as a result of actions related to the program." It appears both state and federal bureaucrats have ignored the legislatures. Currently there are over 149,054 Montana residents in Ravalli and Missoula counties who could be badly affected by movement or transplanting of grizzly bears to the counties.

No Reason for Grizzly Bears to Walk Genes to YNP

Genetics and connection with Canada are often mentioned as the reason for having the grizzly bears move their genes long distances to places such as isolated YNP. Reputable geneticists from the University of Idaho studied DNA samples from grizzly bears collected over a 100 year span. (16) With over 400 (600 now) grizzly bears in the Yellowstone area they predicted no genetic problems for several decades. They also said it would only require two grizzly bears from northern Montana breeding with Yellowstone bears per generation to solve the possible gene problem. Many bear traps and bear trappers are available in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Moving two grizzly bears every 10 years from northern Montana to the Yellowstone grizzly habitat would not seem to be a major cost or problem. Certainly the horrific cost and pain would be much less for a lot of people in the future if grizzly bears do not travel in places they do not belong. MTFWP, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) and the federal government should get out of the Y2Y mode and realize this is not 1804-1806 when Lewis and Clark killed 47 grizzly bears mostly across the width of Montana with muzzle loading rifles. In some locations the bears were very aggressive such as near Great Falls where they were feeding on bison carcasses.

High Government Spending Per Grizzly Bear in Lower 48 States

The IGBC representatives meeting on December 1, 2011 in Missoula admitted that they do not know what grizzly bear success looks like and how to tell people the grizzly bears are recovered. (17) Most of the state and federal bureaucrats on that committee have put that off as long as possible because they like the federal money and federal control of grizzly bears. Radical environmental groups and courts have recently blocked delisting in the Yellowstone area. In 2004 the USFWS surveyed all state and federal government agencies in the lower 48 states and found they were spending \$6,000.00 per grizzly in the 2004 population. (18) A similar survey in 2010 showed that they are

spending 10.7 million- at least \$6,294.00 for each of 1,700 grizzly bears reported by the IGBC recovery coordinator.(19) That money undoubtedly did not cover livestock depredation in Montana, elk and moose killed by grizzlies, payment of hospital bills of people injured, payment for loss of their earnings and pain and suffering, payment for property losses such as livestock, beehives, homes, cabins, buildings and vehicle damage, costs for lawsuits, industries shut down or harmed and loss of freedom by Montana citizens to live, work and recreate in a safe environment. IGBC at the Missoula December 1st meeting talked about forming partnerships with Alberta and British Columbia on grizzly bears. We in the US should be very careful about allowing that to happen or we will find that International treaties, International Union for Conservation Nature (IUCN) associated with the United Nations, Agenda 21, Wildlands Network and Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) are governing our grizzly bear management.

Grizzly Bear Attacks and Human Injuries

Steve Herrero of the University of Calgary has studied bear conflicts for many years. (20) He analyzed grizzly bear attacks on people mostly in National Parks from YNP north and including Alaska up to 1980 for which there were good records and found that in 50 per cent of the attacks the people were severely injured and spent time in the hospital or were killed. Of 143 grizzly attacks he studied which injured 165 people there were 19 deaths and many people had very severe injuries and long hospital stays. He found an additional 22 deaths in Alaska from cursory records of the Alaska Dept. of Safety. Herrero estimated he only found about half the records of maulings by grizzly bears in the time period he studied.

Four medical doctors reported on seven patients at the Foothills Medical Centre, Calgary, Alberta in 2006 in a medical journal. (21) In the period 1994-2005 seven people were operated on there and that included injuries in 6 grizzly bear attacks and one predatory black bear attack which created similar injuries. The patients were treated for injuries ranging from lacerations and puncture wounds to fractures and avulsed tissue. On the average patients had 3 operations and spent 22 days in the hospital. Hospital stays varied from 8 to 56 days. Treatment of the wounds and intravenous antibiotics did not prevent wound infections in two of the seven patients. Six suffered acute mental distress disorder and one of these went on to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Complications ranged from infections to pulmonary embolisms. All patients suffered numerous lacerations, puncture wounds and soft tissue injuries. One patient suffered a fractured elbow and had associated nerve damage. The patient had muscles torn loose from the forearm bones. One patient had extensive damage to the face including extensive damage to an eye, broken upper jaw, and broken finger. Another patient had a frontal skull fracture and the underlying dural tissue covering the brain was torn, also other major facial fractures, and avulsion (removal of the nose region). One patient had a severe facial nerve laceration. Another patient suffered complex, right-sided facial injury including extensive damage to the eye and had fractures of the upper jaw and orbit bones around the eye. Bears fight other bears by grabbing their jaws. They often cause severe injuries to peoples' heads including scalping and damage to and removal of faces and ears.

Barry Gilbert, Ph.D. in his first week of grizzly bear research in YNP in 1977 was severely mauled by a female grizzly with cubs. His helper had a radio and was able to get a helicopter transport for him on relatively short notice. Hospital doctors spent 11 hours and used 990 stitches to treat him initially. He lost an eye and much of his face and ears. His forehead was ripped loose and he had many holes and cuts over his body. He was in the hospital six weeks and later had to have many plastic surgeries. (22)

Monetary Costs of Grizzly Bear Injuries to People

MTFWP has never provided any factual information in reports I have read on human injuries from grizzly bears, the long-time recovery, and the life-time effects of the injuries by grizzly bears and the costs to citizens, their families and insurance companies. They do not inform the public that helicopter rescue flights and transport to major area hospitals may cost \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 or more depending on the care required and the distance traveled. Billings Deaconess Hospital indicates that multiple trauma injuries with operations required might cost as much as \$138,000.00. Not included are MD costs, outpatient costs, extended outpatient physical therapy which is often needed for grizzly bear attacks, drugs and other costs including lost wages and future career earnings. An MD has estimated the MD and physical therapy costs could run from \$50,000.00 to \$70,000.00. The MTFWP plan says the courts will have to determine if the Dept. is liable for injuries to people by grizzly bears on a case by case basis, and we know that will cost a lot of money to solve. Injuries and conflict costs could be reduced by limiting grizzly bear distribution and numbers along with better public education and telling people how to successfully kill grizzly bears attacking them.

Alaska Information on Shooting Grizzly Bears

Alaska puts out a chart showing the success rate of hitting vital organs with various bullet locations and angles in a grizzly bear. There has also been research in Alaska on the most effective firearm calibers and loads. In 48 years of closely observing the MTFWP Dept. I have never seen them put out information on the best and safest way to kill a grizzly bear. In recent years it seems every release on grizzly bears mentions bear spray. That is only effective at very close range, and sometimes it is not effective with some variables, especially if the wind is blowing toward the person. In that case the spray will harm the person. In the past hunting of grizzly bears seemed to make them more wary so they avoided people. Also hunting tends to eliminate the highly aggressive grizzly bears.

MTFWP Lacking Accurate and Timely Details on Grizzly Conflicts & Yearly Report

Many people may not be aware of the injuries and other conflicts grizzly bears cause each year in Montana. The MTFWP stated in the 2006 plan that they were going to put out an annual conflict report, but they have not done that, and the data they have on their website are often incomplete and not accurate. The problems in the web conflict report are only listed as livestock conflict, human conflict, preventative measure, incidental/non-target capture, orphaned and research/augmentation. Even a knowledgeable bear person has no idea of what the actual conflicts were or the damage done. The person in charge of grizzly bears for the Dept. who came from Idaho recently, and who has very little field experience with grizzly bears, told me last winter

that they could not put out accurate details on grizzly bear conflicts because people might get mistaken impressions of grizzly bears. I know from many decades of living in Montana that people value truth and accurate details from government employees.

MTFWP Region 1 and Region 4 do a very good job of keeping the public informed on the problems with grizzly bears, but the rest of the state does not and there is no annual statewide report or analysis of the costs the citizens incur from the Dept. management activities on conflict bears. The last fiscal analysis of the cost of translocation of grizzly bears was incomplete and done in 1991. (23)

Proactive Management of Grizzly Bear Conflicts and Distribution

Check out the WYGF Grizzly Bear Management website. (24) Since 2005 the state of Wyoming has put out excellent weekly and annual reports on conflict grizzly bears there including if they are removed, if moved where they are translocated to, where they move to, and they have excellent descriptions of each conflict. They also do proactive translocation and removal of grizzly bears that are outside suitable bear habitat. MTFWP says in their 2006 plan that prescriptive removal or translocation of bears cannot be used to prevent the distribution spread of grizzly bears. The 2011 Montana legislature passed a bill that was signed by the governor which states proactive management will be used to manage grizzly bear distribution and conflicts. (25)

Grizzly Bears Kill Livestock and Big Game Animals

Grizzly bears have been killing more livestock in Wyoming than in Montana, but that seems to be changing in MT as more bears move into areas with livestock populations and poor vegetative grizzly bear foods. MT does not have good annual reports on livestock killed and injured by grizzly bears including bee larva and honey in hives which are considered to be livestock in Montana. Bear specialists have kept records in northern Montana on livestock deaths, but there is no report compiling that history since the grizzlies were listed in 1975. The annual records available are even worse in southern Montana. Ranchers on the upper Ruby River reported in 2010 losing 80 calves and 22 cows on a USFS grazing allotment there. They believed that wolves and grizzly bears were responsible for most of the cattle deaths. (26) Historical normal loss during the summer prior to high populations of wolves and grizzly bears had been about 30 head of cattle. The riders had great difficulty with aggressive grizzly bears and at least seven were known to be present. They also reported finding lots of elk calf legs. These Yellowstone grizzlies take a lot of elk and moose in southern Montana also. In 2005 the upper Gallatin elk herd had 1,500 elk, and the either-sex elk hunting was shut down then. After that hunters took only about 60 bull elk each year. By 2009 the elk herd had dropped to less than 200 head due to predation by wolves and grizzly bears with some help from mountain lions, black bears and coyotes. The density of grizzly bears was 57 per 1,000 elk and wolf density was 23/1,000 elk. In YNP moose numbered 1,200 in 1995 and by 2009 only 114 were found. Wolf and grizzly predation were big factors in the decrease. Elk in the northern herd dropped from over 19,000 in 1995 to 4,635 in 2011. There was a drop of 1,400 from 2010 to 2011, and most of that was due to wolves, grizzly bears and some bulls killed by hunters.

A ranch manager in Madison County indicated to me that they absorbed the loss of cattle each year to grizzly bears and did not report the loss to the USFS because they feared what would happen to their grazing allotments. Radical environmental groups filing lawsuits in Missoula Federal Court or other cherry picked courts have undue influence over people and businesses throughout the three state area populated with grizzly bears.

Some recent reports show the predatory efficiency of grizzly bears on cattle and sheep in Wyoming. A 2010 paper in the Journal of Wildlife Management was titled Quantifying Economic Impacts of Large-Carnivore Depredation on Bovine Calves. (27) The upper Green River cattle allotment on USFS land is the largest in the U.S. and 7,565 head were permitted there during 1995-2004. The number each year varied due to climatic and economic conditions. During the 1995-2004 period a total of 29,693 calves were on the allotment. Grizzly bears started killing calves in 1995 and wolves started killing them in 2000. There were six livestock riders working full-time from five camps. Grizzlies killed 520 domestic calves and wolves killed 177. Calves accounted for 87 per cent of the confirmed depredations, and 13 per cent older cattle were killed by grizzly bears and wolves.

Range Magazine reported that grizzly bears and black bears killed 116 domestic sheep for a rancher in the Wind River area in 1996 and 420 in 1997. In 1999 in the same drainage grizzly bears killed 37 cows and 114 calves all registered and all belonging to one rancher who had six sons riding the cattle allotment. The Wind River reports were in Range Magazine in 1998 (28) and 2001(29) respectively. WYGF pays for predator losses of livestock. Based on good records in the Green River study it was found that a multiplier of 3.8 to 1 should be used for each calf found to be killed by a grizzly compared to ones which were killed and not found. Young cattle are currently selling for \$1,200. to \$1,400. per head. Top sheep wool fleeces are worth \$40.00 and lambs \$200. to \$240 each. At those prices grizzlies killing cattle and sheep can greatly harm income.

People Affected by Grizzly Bears in Montana

Table1. Population in 2009 by Montana County Affected by Grizzly Bears (30)

Beaverhead	8,976	Glacier	13,550	Mineral	3,883	Stillwater	8,786
Broadwater	4,793	Granite	2,879	Missoula	108,623	Sweet Grass	3,667
Carbon	9,756	Jefferson	11,470	Park	15,941	Teton	6,088
Cascade	82,178	Lake	28,605	Pondera	5,814	Toole	5,151
Chouteau	5,167	Lewis & Clark	61,942	Powell	7,089	28 Counties	687,578
Deerlodge	8,792	Liberty	1,748	Ravalli	40,431	Montana	974,989
Flathead	89,624	Lincoln	18,717	Sanders	11,096		
Gallatin	90,343	Madison	7,457	Silverbow	32,949		

About 70 per cent of Montana residents are in those counties and most of the 10 million plus tourists travel there. About 144,926 county residents are affected by the Yellowstone area grizzlies and 542,652 county residents by the northern Montana grizzly bears. The latter is based on known distribution origin of grizzly bears in the two areas using the county in which they have been observed.

Grizzly Bears a Taking of Private Property

Table 2. Montana and County Land Ownership and Acres of Private Land in Subdivisions 40 Acres or Larger (31)

Montana	Private	State	Federal	Tribal	Private Acres
Montana %	58.7	6.0	29.1	5.3	55,015,683
Beaverhead	30.6	10.0	58.9		1,643,306
Broadwater	60.9	3.1	32.8		477,447
Carbon	52.9	3.4	43.5		697,365
Cascade	81.7	5.2	12.4		1,416,306
Chouteau	81.6	10.4	6.2		2,086,107
Deerlodge	40.0	14.7	44.9		189,819
Flathead	21.4	3.9	71.7	0.8	718,429
Gallatin	52.4	3.8	42.9		883,456
Glacier	39.4	3.8	20.2	39.1	763,972
Granite	34.7	1.8	63.2		385,142
Jefferson	44.3	3.4	52.2		469,995
Lake	36.2	6.2	17.8	30.4	366,802
Lewis and Clark	43.5	7.6	48.0		969,167
Liberty	86.7	9.4	2.9		802,663
Lincoln	22.0	3.0	73.5		516,904
Madison	46.5	7.1	46.0		1,072,820
Mineral	9.4	8.1	82.3		73,157
Missoula	35.6	9.2	49.1	5.5	500,475
Park	45.2	2.2	52.4		813,988
Pondera	73.2	1.5	10.3	10.4	769,523
Powell	39.5	10.1	50.3		572,701
Ravalli	23.9	2.6	73.5		367,638
Sanders	26.6	3.7	52.2	16.5	475,812
Silverbow	42.8	6.2	51.0		196,674
Stillwater	77.7	4.2	17.7		897,701
Sweet Grass	71.0	4.1	24.7		846,349
Teton	72.6	8.3	18.5		1,043,639
Toole	87.4	8.3	3.6		1,087,782
28 Counties					21,105,805

Table 2. details the per cent land ownership in the 28 counties and the acres of private land in each county. That number is low as Montana Natural Resources Information System (NRIS) did not have data for less than 40 acre parcels. Realize that MTFWP

wants grizzly bears on over 21,105,805 acres of private land in 28 counties. That will be a gigantic taking of private land by government for grizzly bears. State and federal government must learn to respect the rights and opportunities of people.

Total numbers of cattle, sheep and hogs are shown for the affected counties in Table 3. While numbers of sheep and hogs are relatively low be aware that both species are magnets for grizzly bears. If the grizzly bears, especially the more predaceous adult males, continue to expand their distribution expect more predation on all classes of livestock. They also kill horses, mules, llamas, dogs, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and in Wyoming have killed \$900.00 show rabbits belonging to a young 4H member.

High Opportunities for Grizzly Bears Expanding Distribution to Kill Livestock

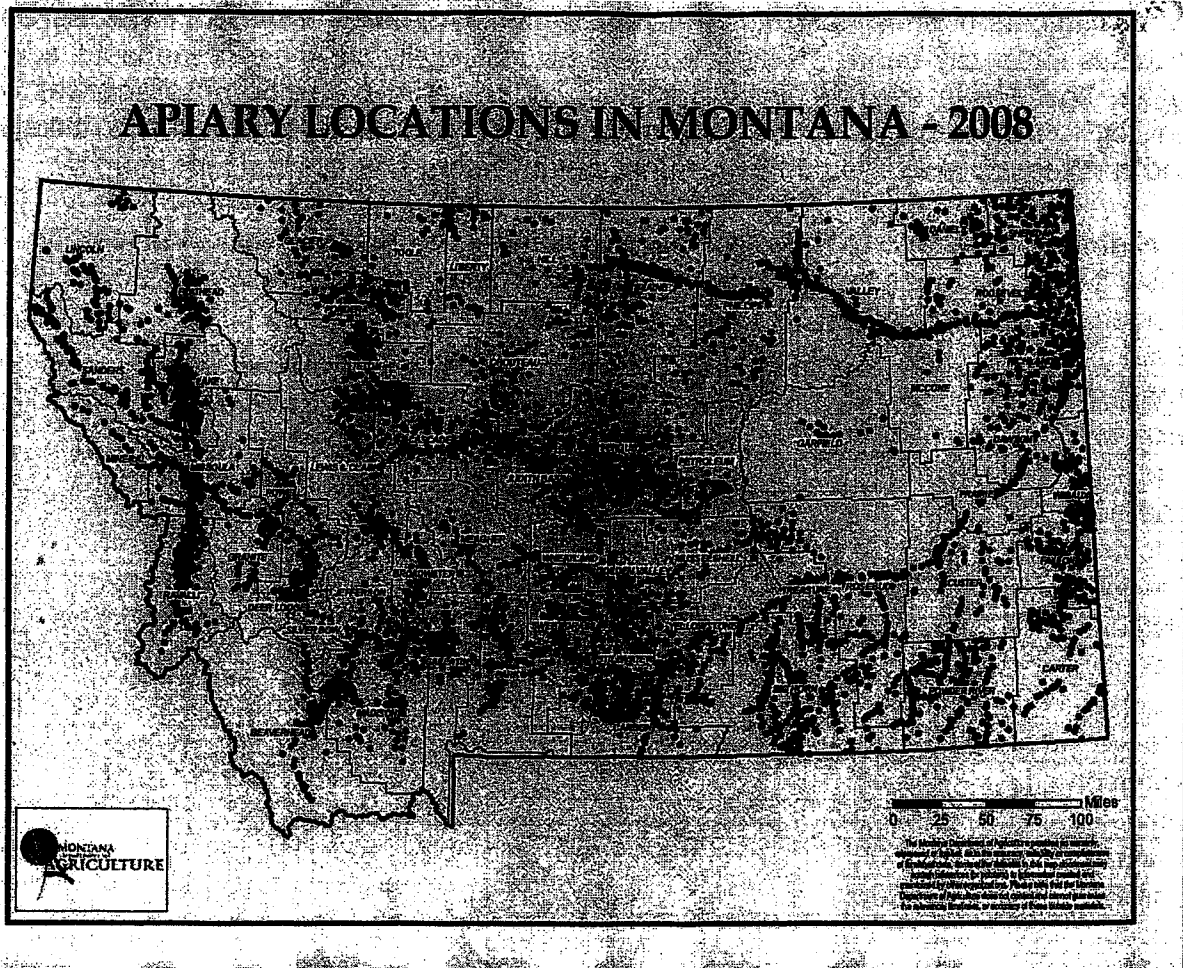
Table 3. All Cattle, Sheep and Hogs in Counties Affected by Grizzly Bears in 2010 (32)

Montana	All Cattle	All Sheep	All Hogs
State	2,550,000	255,000	175,000
Beaverhead	113,000	12,000	2,800
Broadwater	17,500		200
Carbon	66,000		
Cascade	84,000	6,900	13,800
Chouteau	41,000	600	13,000
Deerlodge	5,800		800
Flathead	9,200		
Gallatin	49,000	2,700	
Glacier	46,000	1,000	
Granite	27,000	700	
Jefferson	25,000		
Lake	50,000	1,400	
Lewis and Clark	46,500		
Liberty	13,000		17,200
Lincoln	2,400		
Madison	72,000	1,200	
Mineral	600		
Missoula	7,000	1,300	
Park	47,000	7,800	
Pondera	30,500	5,700	23,900
Powell	38,000		
Ravalli	34,000	4,200	
Sanders	21,000	500	
Silverbow	4,000		
Stillwater	38,000	7,800	
Sweet Grass	45,000	6,400	
Teton	49,000	5,700	10,600
Toole	24,300	2,000	
28 Counties	1,005,800	67,900	82,300

Honey Bees are Considered to be Livestock in Montana

Beehives containing honey and bee larva are highly attractive to grizzly bears. About the only way to protect the hives is to fence them with high electric fences. See Fig 2 for a map of all apiaries in Montana.

Fig. 2. Map of All Apiaries in Montana



Stresses and Costs of Living with Grizzly Bears

I know the stresses and costs of living with grizzly bears and did the first intensive research on them outside National Parks in Montana for five years. That work was done from tent camps and travel with horses and mules. Grizzly bears were shared with foot snares. They were marked with radio collars and tracked with airplanes and from the ground till they denned. One has to be extremely alert at all times when in grizzly country and sometimes even that does not work. Having a large and angry grizzly bear charge you is a scary experience. Several authors have detailed stories of attacks by grizzly bears on humans and other conflicts in their books. Herrero (33), Crammond (34), Long (35) and McMillion (36) are some of the better books with reports from Montana and other locations.

Attacks and other conflicts are occurring more often as the grizzly population has expanded greatly and moved to areas with lots of people. A rancher friend near

Choteau told me in the 1970's how they enjoyed trout fishing in streams on their ranch in the foothills. Twenty years later with many more grizzlies they were not fishing, and they hated to fix fence and look for cattle in the dense cover often holding bears. A rancher in the Mission Valley recently reported he has to carry a rifle when he goes outdoors at night. He had 9 different grizzly bears in his valley ranch yard in 2011, and he was charged by a large male and by another group of four bears. The elementary schools at Dupuyer, MT and Wapiti, WY had to be fenced with grizzly proof fencing to keep the bears away from the children. People at Dupuyer, MT carry bear spray to the post office and grizzlies show up in their city park (37). An old male grizzly, grazing on the lawn at the West Yellowstone school, was trapped and removed after many unsuccessful attempts failed to scare it out of town. Communities with dumps often incur higher costs when grizzlies are present.

In Madison County five hunters have been mauled by grizzly bears since September 2010. Three were archery elk hunters and two were rifle elk hunters. Also one rifle hunting party and one bowhunting party shot grizzly bears in self defense and were not mauled. The rifle party used bear spray and the grizzly left but whirled around and charged again and was shot. The bowhunting party was calling a bull elk, and was charged by a sow grizzly and two large cubs two years old from 80 yards that responded to the elk call. One hunter was able to knock down the sow at 7 feet with a .357 magnum revolver.

Ranchers and ranch hands, outfitters and guides and others in many areas of MT and WY where there are grizzly bears carry guns at all times. Over the years grizzlies have learned to associate the dinner bell with the sound of hunters' shots. Twenty or 30 years ago people had two or three days to safely get an elk carcass packed out of the back country. Recently that has dropped to a few hours. In Madison County it is recommended that one or more hunters stand guard with rifles watching alertly for charging grizzlies coming to the carcass while a hunter dresses out the animal. A lone hunter, dressing an elk, was killed on the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management area in 2001 by a female grizzly with two cubs. (38)

Government Bureaucrats Give Grizzly Bears Priority

In 2010 two archers were mauled in the Gravelly Mountains. Game wardens were telling the hunters and media that all hunters should consider moving somewhere else to hunt because of the aggressive grizzly bears present there. (39) Consider the fact that there are also about 10,000 elk there, and perhaps people should have their Constitutional rights protected in Montana. That mountain range with 60,000 elk hunter days, 10,000 adult domestic sheep plus lambs, 5,000 cattle plus calves, ranchers and ranch hands, cow camps, sheep camps and herders, anglers, campers, sightseers, hikers and horseback riders, marathon runners, large talc mine, upland bird, mule and white-tailed deer, moose, antelope, black bear, mountain goat, mountain lion, and wolf hunters, private property with cabins, ATV riders, dude ranches and many tourists and photographers would be off limits and socially unacceptable to grizzly bears in Wyoming.

Unfortunately in Montana radical environmental groups and government employees want to get so many grizzly bears in the small, isolated mountain ranges like the Gravelly Mountains that bear pressure will force grizzly bears to walk across mountain valleys populated with many homes to other small mountain ranges and hence to the Selway-Bitterroot in Idaho and north to GNP. An unbearable amount of conflict and pain will be inflicted on humans, their livestock and pets and their businesses and homes if that occurs. Bears can do tremendous damage to buildings. The Geifer Creek grizzly damaged 55 homes and cabins in the Middle Fork of the Flathead and North Fork of Flathead in 1975-77 before he was killed by a hunter in Canada. In 2011 it was reported that one grizzly bear caused problems at 75 homes in Island Park, Idaho. Many other grizzlies were present in the extended town, and one bow hunter was mauled nearby. Based on my nearly 50 years of experience in grizzly country most local people don't want to live that way. There were 295 reported conflicts with grizzly bears in the greater Yellowstone area in 2010 (40) and 300 in 2011. (41) I have read that there were 263 grizzly bear conflicts in the northern Montana area in 1998. The Helena FWP staff in 2010 reduced my freedom of information request for 15 years of grizzly conflict details to 10 years. I wanted 15 in order to understand the 263 reported conflicts in 1998.

Surely even top level MTFWP Helena employees recently arrived from other states should be able to understand and mentally picture that grizzly bears in the wheat, barley, oat, pea, alfalfa, potato, corn and sugar beet fields on the plains and river bottoms in mountain valleys are occupying socially unacceptable grizzly bear habitat. Ditto that for internationally famous fishing rivers and streams, Montana state parks, fishing accesses and campgrounds, subdivisions and towns, and ranch headquarters.

MTFWP does not Pay for Grizzly Bear Damage

The MTFWP does not pay for damage done by grizzly bears. They have no livestock payment like Wyoming does. They don't pay for damage to apiaries, buildings, vehicles, livestock feed, fences, camp trailers and tents, for people mauled and killed, for medical expenses caused by bears or for terrible injuries and life long disabilities that some people receive from grizzlies. There is no payment for the taking of private property by grizzly bears or the diminished uses and values of that property and loss of opportunity to use other areas where people used to safely work and recreate. The Montana Constitution says people are entitled to a safe and healthful environment. However MTFWP personnel may not have read their copy. They have never put out any up to date reports on the damage that grizzly bears have done to Montana industries such as logging, ranching and tourism and annual and detailed reports on all conflicts are not written. Instead high ranking MTFWP employees and the IGBC are trying to set up a 45 million dollar slush fund for wolves and grizzly bears. (42) I suspect they have no intention of using those funds to pay people damaged by the two wildlife species. People and the media need to dig into the secrets of that slush fund which the state and federal bureaucrats want and have been working on for a few years.

TEN THINGS WE SHOULD DO TO PROACTIVELY MANAGE NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF GRIZZLY BEARS IN MONTANA

1. **Protect your future by becoming better educated on grizzly bear conflict problems. Actively work with other people in Montana to get improvement in grizzly bear management that recognizes the importance of people.**
2. **Get grizzly bears delisted and back under control of the state of Montana. That may require overhaul of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Equal Right to Justice Act (ERJA) by the US Congress. Be prepared to put pressure on Congress. Eliminate the IGBC and all its large expenses. Government committees heavily weighted with mid level federal and state bureaucrats are not a good management strategy for grizzly bears. They are not very accountable to Montana citizens.**
3. **Require that the MTFWP put a person highly experienced in the field with grizzly bears in charge of developing grizzly distribution boundaries and maximum grizzly numbers management plan. Insure that Montana citizens have detailed input, that the state work with all county and tribal governments affected and that all the comments are carefully compiled, tabulated and analyzed and utilized to get the best conflict resolution possible. Non-residents and large environmental groups should not have undue influence on the process since Montana residents suffer from their actions.**
4. **Insure that state and federal agencies don't try to continue to force grizzly bears into the Selway-Bitterroot Area over previous actions by the Idaho and Montana state legislatures which said that grizzly bears were not wanted there.**
5. **Require that the MTFWP put out detailed reports on a weekly basis for management of conflict grizzly bears, and that they be required to present a detailed annual report to the Montana legislature, other government agencies and the public.**
6. **Get people into the top level MTFWP and wildlife management positions who understand the importance of big game management in Montana and who have much Montana work experience and education in that field. A 50 year survey would probably show MTFWP wildlife research and management of big game has declined in recent years.**
7. **People must be taught the best ways to kill grizzly bears or deter grizzly bear attacks. The current MTFWP policy of telling everyone to haul one or more cans of bear spray has worn pretty thin. Check out information from Alaska that is available on safely hunting grizzly bears. Approximately 1,900 grizzly bears are killed there each year. Both grizzly and black bear hunting in Montana would be positively affected if hunters were not required to eat the meat. Grizzly bears are heavily infected with Trichina**

in meat and both species have parasitic infestations of Ascarid worms. Depending on what the bears have been feeding, the meat can be highly unpalatable. Idaho and Wyoming do not require the saving of bear meat.

8. In 1980 I made the first recommendation for bear specialists in Montana to handle bear conflicts in an intelligent manner. I did not then nor now view that as a growth industry with grizzly bear specialists everywhere. Common sense must be used. The bear specialist in southern Montana told me recently he does not communicate with bear specialists in northern Montana but does talk to those in Wyoming. It is entirely possible he could learn something from those in northern Montana and Wyoming including better and more timely reports to the public and detailed annual data compilation, analysis and report writing.
9. We need a detailed statewide analysis of grizzly bear management, conflict reduction, distribution, numbers management and the costs that grizzly bears create for people and businesses. We do not need a citizen committee set up to make that analysis to take the heat off paid government employees. Talented and highly educated employees of MTFWP with much field experience should be able to do that with help of citizen comments.
10. Finally many of us are fed up with state and federal government intrusion in our lives and management of grizzly bears and other species such as wolves. We know that citizens harmed too long will take over management of the slower reproducing grizzly bears at the local level if necessary. Some in frustration are now doing that with the faster reproducing and more widely traveling wolves. The year 2012 would be an excellent time to retake our state and country.

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